

**Dimock
Pennsylvania**

Issue: Status of EPA's investigation in Dimock, PA

Current Status (as of March 19, 2012):

- EPA's January 19, 2012 removal action initiated under the response authorities of CERCLA included sampling of approximately sixty-one (61) residences at the Dimock Residential Groundwater site. This number has increased to approximately sixty-eight (68) residences for potential sampling based on EPA well surveys.
- Sixty-one (61) homes have been sampled to date;
- Alternate water continues to be provided to the four (4) residences initially identified as needing water (a fifth residence identified as needing water was provided water by Cabot at first, but has since declined water from anyone, including EPA);
- Sampling operations were suspended on February 15th and resumed on March 5th as there were several residents residing in other areas (e.g., wintering in Florida) that did not plan to return to the Dimock area until March or April; several residences remain to be scheduled (either are out of town or have not yet responded);
- To date there have not been any homes that have declined having their well water sampled. Scheduling continues in accordance with availability of residents.
- Additional actions, including any future sampling and/or provision of alternate water will depend on a review of the final sampling data;
- Data on 11 homes sampled during the first week of sampling was provided to homeowners on March 14. Samples from some homes showed concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria. Sampling results from these homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Several follow-up visits to discuss health concerns are scheduled for the week of March 19; other residents have expressed interest in a follow-up visit, but have not yet scheduled one.
- Sampling results will continue to be released to residents over the next several weeks.

Background:

- Based on information from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot Oil & Gas, consultation with an EPA toxicologist and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and an EPA well survey, EPA determined that a number of homes in the Dimock area contained hazardous substances, some of which were not naturally occurring.
- On January 19, 2012, using response authorities under CERCLA, EPA initiated a removal action at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site in Dimock, PA.
- At Cabot's request, EPA met with representatives of the company on February 22, 2012. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) representatives participated in that meeting via conference call. EPA also held a conference call with PADEP on March 6, 2012, to discuss this issue as well as approaches to other situations where contamination of groundwater by natural gas activities is alleged.

Contact: Ron Borsellino 215-814-3170